

Air Defense Artillery in Step with the United States Priorities for 21st Century Defense

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“This country is at a strategic turning point after a decade of war and, therefore, we are shaping a joint force for the future that will be smaller and leaner, but will be agile, flexible, ready, and technologically advanced.”

**—Secretary of Defense
Leon Panetta**

As we have ended combat operations in Iraq and begin to draw down in Afghanistan, recent remarks by senior leaders and the publication of key strategy documents outline a shift in orientation of the joint force that increases emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region, but sustains our global presence in the Middle East and Europe, strives to build partnership capacity, and protects the homeland. This evolving shift is needed to sustain the United States’ global leadership and it requires a joint force that is versatile, responsive, decisive and prepared for an increasingly competitive and unpredictable security environment. For the Army, this requires



us to remain operationally adaptable and decisive for a range of missions to include regular and irregular warfare, homeland defense, counter weapons of mass destruction defense, air and missile defense and other missions. In short, the U.S. Army must provide depth and versatility to the nation,

be responsive to combatant commanders, and enable our joint force partners.

The 2012 Fires Seminar held at Fort Sill, Okla., was a gathering of Fires community senior leaders, which resulted in thoughtful discussion regarding how the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) is currently postured, the substantial demand for air and missile defense forces by the geographic combatant commands, future required capabilities, and the tremendous achievements of the ADA — from Army air and missiles defense commands to ADA batteries, both active component and National Guard. In the ‘State of the Air Defense Artillery’ presentation, I described how the ADA is already ‘in step’ with shifting strategic priorities, and will remain fully engaged in executing vital missions in support of the United States’ national interests worldwide. The following is an around-the-world tour of where and how the ADA is ‘on point’ serving our nation

Asia-Pacific.

“Accordingly, while the U.S. military will continue to contribute to security globally, we will of necessity rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region.”

-General Raymond Odierno in the document, Chairman’s Strategic Direction to the Joint Force.

U.S. economic and security interests are inextricably linked to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The rising economic and military power of China and other nations in the Western Pacific, East Asia, and the Indian Ocean area requires increased focus by U.S. leadership assuring regional access and the free flow of commerce that is so vital to our national interests. China has embarked upon unprecedented modernization of its military, and has gained the capability of flexing its muscles throughout East Asia and the Western Pacific. Chinese strategic intentions, however, are as troubling as they are ambiguous. Strategic intentions aside, it is clear China may one day possess the ability to limit or prevent U.S. military forces from operating freely in the Pacific.

Also unsettling, the continued North Korean development of long-range ballistic missiles and nuclear capabilities, keeping tensions on the Korean Peninsula at elevated levels, all of which pose a direct threat to the U.S.

94th Army Air & Missile Defense Command (AAMDC). Headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, the mission of the 94th AAMDC is ‘in step’ with the shifting

strategic direction of the U.S. to the Asia-Pacific. It plays a key role in providing deterrence against potential adversaries with substantial ballistic missile capabilities and it provides air and missile defense (AMD) mission command and AMD forces in support of five operations/concept plans. It controls the Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance or AN/TPY-2 Radar in Shariki, Japan, that is vital to the ballistic missile defense of the homeland and key U.S. interests in the Pacific. It also provides for the training readiness of the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade headquartered at Osan Air Base, South Korea, whose mission it is to provide ballistic missile defense of critical assets on the Korean Peninsula. Within the training readiness authority of the 35th ADA Brigade, is the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery (Patriot), headquartered in Okinawa, Japan, which defends critical assets vital to U.S. interests on that strategically important island. The 94th AAMDC participates in a robust and rigorous exercise program that includes 13 joint and combined annual exercises to prepare for its AMD mission, facilitate bilateral and combined training pursuant to U.S. defense treaty obligations, and to promote theater security cooperation.

Middle East.

“Our defense efforts in the Middle East will be aimed at countering violent extremists and destabilizing threats, as well as upholding our commitment to allies and partner states. Of particular concern are the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction.”

-General Raymond Odierno in the document, Chairman’s Strategic Direction to the Joint Force

The Arab awakening that sparked the overthrow of regimes in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, the on-going civil war in Syria, the decades-old strife between the Palestinians and Israel, the rise of violent non-state actors such as Hezbollah and Hamas, the continued threat of Al Qaida and its splinter groups on the Arabian Peninsula continue to make the Middle East a powder keg that will challenge U.S. national interests for years to come. The most threatening is Iran’s nuclear ambitions and strategic aim to establish hegemony in the Persian Gulf and the wider Middle East. Iran’s sizeable military strength, to include its naval and ballistic missile forces, pose a

significant risk to peace and stability among Persian Gulf states and in particular the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

32nd Army Air & Missile Defense Command.

Headquartered at Fort Bliss, Texas, the mission of the 32nd AAMDC is also squarely in stride with U.S. strategic priorities in the Middle East as it conducts combined and coalition air and missile defense operations in support of U.S. Central Command to deter the ballistic missile threat posed by Iran, and to defeat Iranian missiles if deterrence fails. The 32d AAMDC is assigned to United States Forces Command and it is responsible for training and readiness of the 108th ADA Brigade at Fort Bragg, N.C., the 31st ADA Brigade at Fort Sill, Okla., the 69th ADA Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, and the 11th ADA Brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas. The 32d AAMDC conducts AMD force generation and sustains forward deployment of an ADA brigade headquarters in Qatar, and Patriot battalions in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and also Qatar under the operational control of Army Central Command. It is also responsible for training and preparing for employment the Army's newest missile defense weapon, the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, of which there are two batteries stationed at Fort Bliss.

Europe.

“The United States has enduring interests in supporting peace and prosperity in Europe as well as bolstering the strength and vitality of NATO, which is critical to the security of Europe and beyond . . . the United States will maintain our Article 5 commitments to allied security and promote enhanced capacity and interoperability for coalition operations.”

-From: Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for the 21st Century Defense

The U.S. has maintained a military presence on the European continent since World War II, and despite the defeat of communism and the fall of the Iron Curtain, American interests in Europe endure. European economic stability and regional security is critically important to the U.S. economy as Europe is collectively our largest trading partner. Europe, like the U.S., is also threatened by the proliferation of ballistic missile technology that may one day place the European continent at risk of ballistic missile attack.

10th Army Air & Missile Defense Command.

Headquartered at Rhein Ordnance Barracks, Germany, the 10th AAMDC is assigned to the United States Army Europe. Within the context of U.S. commitment to NATO's European Phased Adaptive Approach that will provide credible ballistic missile defense for both the U.S. homeland and our NATO allies, and directly in support of U.S. strategic priorities, the 10th AAMDC provides mission command and sensor management functions of AN/TPY-2 radars in support of United States European Command. Responsible for training and readiness oversight of 5-7 ADA (Patriot) and its mission to be ready for rapid deployment in support of EUCOM missions, the 10th AAMDC also promotes enhanced capacity and interoperability with Poland, a NATO ally, through rotation of 5-7 ADA Patriot batteries to Poland for AMD training and exercises.

U.S. Homeland.

“U.S. forces will continue to defend U.S. territory from direct attack by state and non-state actors . . . Homeland defense and support to civil authorities require strong, steady-state force readiness, to include a robust missile defense capability.”

-From: Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for the 21st Century Defense

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 awakened the U.S. to existential threats that had not been in the consciousness of the American people since the height of the Cold War with the Soviet Union. The notion that America could be struck without warning with catastrophic consequences had long been forgotten. The scourge of terrorism remains and the U.S. must always remain vigilant, but a new threat—intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) from North Korea and from Iran, has emerged. China and Russia maintain large ICBM capabilities, but what makes North Korea and Iran different is their unpredictability and penchant for using their burgeoning long-range ballistic missile capabilities as methods to gain influence and power through the demonstration of developing ballistic missile capabilities, posturing and attendant overheated rhetoric, but especially and more pointedly, the potential that they may one day be capable of arming ICBMs with nuclear payloads.

U.S. Army Space & Missile Defense Command / Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT). Headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., SMDC/ARSTRAT conducts space and missile defense operations and provides planning, integration, control and



CSM Stephan Frennier, Third Army/ARCENT senior enlisted advisor, is briefed on the capabilities of the MIM-104 Patriot. Third Army remains committed to offering Soldiers outstanding leadership. Through visiting the region, Frennier is helping to motivate, mentor and guide Soldiers, the strength of our nation. (Photo by COL Christopher Calvert, U.S. Army)

coordination of Army forces and capabilities in support of U.S. Strategic Command to include strategic deterrence, integrated missile defense, and space operations. SMDC/ARSTRAT also serves as the Army operational integrator for global missile defense. In addition to the 1st Space Brigade, SMDC also has training and readiness authority over the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-Based Midcourse Defense) headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo. The 100th Missile Defense Brigade is a multi-component headquarters with a contingent of active component Soldiers, but it is comprised mainly of full-time National Guard Soldiers. Very simply, their mission is to defend the nation against ballistic missile attack by manning ground-based midcourse defense stations of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Detachment 1 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Controlled by a mission command suite in Colorado Springs, crews are poised to launch interceptors to defeat ballistic missile threats to the homeland 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

263rd Army Air & Missile Defense Command. Headquartered in Anderson, S.C., 263rd AAMDC executes vital AMD missions in support of the homeland, but specifically, short-range air defense of the National Capitol Region. In addition, the 263rd AAMDC maintains a Deployable Integrated Air Defense System (DIADS) Minimum Deployment Package that routinely supports national security sensitive events, such a major sporting events, national activities and celebrations, as well as, support to the executive branch. The 263rd AAMDC

also maintains training and readiness oversight of the 164th ADA Brigade of the Florida National Guard, and the 174th ADA Brigade of the Ohio National Guard, which collectively includes seven air defense battalions equipped with the Avenger air defense system and Sentinel Radar.

The Air Defense Artillery—from the AAMDCs, down to ADA brigades, battalions and batteries, and SMDC/ARSTRAT, are performing vital air and missile defense missions in support of geographic combatant commanders around the globe and in the homeland. Whether one looks to the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East, Europe, or the U.S. homeland, the Air Defense Artillery is well postured for and is ‘in step’ with the evolving strategic priorities. Ambiguous Chinese ambitions, increased global and regional tensions, proliferating ballistic missile technology, the aspirations of North Korea and Iran to become nuclear states, all raise the specter that one-day air and missile defense forces may be called to respond decisively to defeat ballistic missile attacks. Continued focus on mission training and readiness by Army leaders, as well as steady Air Defense Artillery capability improvements, along with other joint partners will help our nation sustain global leadership for the 21st Century.

Editor’s Note: On July 9, 2012, COL(P) Fryc assumed the position of commandant of the Air Defense Artillery School and Chief of Air Defense Artillery.